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Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

NORTON, JENNIFER L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2121

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/25/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,513

Applicant(s)

DOLLING ET AL.

Examiner

Jennifer L. Norton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a **Non-Final Office Action** in response to the Request for Continued Examination filed on 13 July 2007. Claims 15, 29 and 32 have been amended. Claims 15-33 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The amendment to the Claims was received on 13 July 2007. The correction is acceptable and the objection is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 15, 19, 22 and 25-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,631,825 (hereinafter Van Weele) in view of PCT Application No. PCT/US00/14590 (Gundmudsson) and U.S. Patent No. 5,880,959 (hereinafter Shah), incorporated by reference in Gundmudsson.

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5. As per claim 15, Van Weele teaches a software-based tool (col. 46, lines 9-23 and Fig. 1, element 20) programmable for configuring or designing (col. 18, lines 15-19, col. 20, lines 54-56 and col. 45, lines 59-66), the tool comprising:

- a storage unit for storing a control program (col. 18, lines 34-40);

- an operating unit for inputting operator commands (col. 17, lines 59-67 and col. 18, lines 1-2);

- a display (col. 17, lines 59-67, col. 18, lines 1-2 and Fig. 3, element 26);

- a computer (Fig. 1, element 20) configurable to provide, in conjunction with the display (col. 17, lines 59-67, col. 18, lines 1-2 and Fig. 3, element 26), a graphic user interface (col. 45, lines 59-67 and col. 46, lines 1-23) having a first navigation area (Fig. 3, element 36), a second navigation area (Fig. 3, element 38), and a data area (Fig. 3, element 40 and col. 32, lines 17-31), wherein

- the first navigation area (Fig. 3, element 36) is an area, in which sub-tasks and work steps associated with a project can be displayed in a hierarchically organized manner (col. 5, lines 58-67, col. 7, lines 58-67, col. 11, lines 41-52 and col. 34, lines 36-45), and

- the second navigation area (Fig. 3, element 38) is an area, in which individual work steps associated with the project can be displayed in their processing sequence (col. 2, lines 1-17, col. 5, lines 67, col. 6, lines 1-4 and col. 7, lines 34-37 and 43-44), and wherein:

(i) a required work step can be selected (col. 11, lines 5-8 and 14-18) in the first navigation area (col. 23, lines 21-26 and col. 34, lines 27-31) and/or in the second navigation area (col. 7, lines 11-15 and col. 34, lines 31-35).

Van Weele does not expressly teach (ii) activities of configuring or designing according to one or more of the subtasks or work steps can be performed in the data area through the user interface to select a data option associated with a selected subtask or work step in order to configure or design the installation.

Gundmudsson by incorporation of Shah teaches activities of configuring or designing according to one or more of the subtasks or work steps can be performed a data area (Shah: col. 11, lines 64-67, col. 12, lines 1-16 and Fig. 7, element 1022) through the user interface (col. 11, lines 48-51 and Fig. 7) to select a data option (Fig. 7, element 1024) associated with a selected subtask or work step in order to configure or design the installation (Shah: col. 11, lines 64-67, col. 12, lines 1-16 and Fig. 7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of Van Weele to activities of configuring or designing according to one or more of the subtasks or work steps can be performed a data area through the user interface to select a data option associated with a selected subtask or work step in order to configure or design the installation to

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reduce design and implementation cost by providing efficient design tool (Shah: col. 2, lines 65-67).

6. As per claim 19, Van Weele teaches as set forth above elements displayed in the first navigation area are displayed as an alphanumeric display (col. 23, lines 40-43).

7. As per claim 22, Van Weele teaches as set forth above elements displayed in the second navigation area are each displayed in alphanumeric and graphic form (col. 7, lines 4-9).

8. As per claim 25, Van Weele teaches once a required work step has been selected, elements can be selected to display, input or change data associated with said work step is displayed in the data area (col. 11, line 67, col. 12, lines 1-8, col. 13, lines 61-67) substantially the same as claimed but does not expressly teach once a required work step has been completed, command elements can be selected to display, input or change data associated with processing said work step.

Gundmudsson teaches once a required work step has been completed (pg. 11, lines 9-12), command elements can be selected to display, input or change data associated with processing said work step (pg. 11, lines 14-18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of Van Weele to include once a required work step has been completed, command elements can be selected to display, input or change data associated with processing said work step to provide a cohesive and adaptive project planning and design tool, that permits a non-specialized person to manage a project step-by-step, and keep an accurate project plan and project history (pg. 3, lines 24-27 and pg. 4, lines 1-2).

9. As per claim 26, Van Weele teaches once the required work step has been selected, an alphanumeric display in the first navigation area corresponding to the selected work step and an alphanumeric and graphic display in the second navigation area corresponding to the selected work step are visually marked (col. 13, lines 67 and col. 14, lines 1-4) substantially the same as claimed but does not expressly teach once the required work step has been completed, an alphanumeric display in the first navigation area corresponding to the completed work step and an alphanumeric and graphic display in the second navigation area corresponding to the completed work step are visually marked.

Gundmudsson teaches once the required work step has been completed, an alphanumeric display in the navigation area corresponding to the completed work step are visually marked (pg. 11, lines 9-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of Van Weele to include once the required work step has been completed, an alphanumeric display in the navigation area corresponding to the completed work step are visually marked to provide a cohesive and adaptive project planning and design tool, that permits a non-specialized person to manage a project step-by-step, and keep an accurate project plan and project history (pg. 3, lines 24-27 and pg. 4, lines 1-2).

10. As per claim 27, Van Weele teaches as set forth above the tool is adapted for configuring or designing an installation or technical composition (col. 11, line 67, col. 12, lines 1-8, col. 14, lines 39-41, col. 30, lines 56-67, col. 31, lines 1-34 and Fig. 33).

11. As per claim 28, Van Weele teaches as set forth above the data displayed in the data area is displayed to the form of a list containing selectable list elements (col. 13, lines 30-47).

12. As per claim 29, Van Weele teaches as set forth above a button is assigned to each selectable list element, which can be clicked on to superimpose a window corresponding to an assistant for a selected element, the window containing help information or prompting inputting of parameters, relating to configuring or designing (col. 13, lines 48-60).

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13. As per claim 30, Van Weele teaches status indicators, provided in each of the navigation areas, provide information about a work step (col. 7, lines 11-24) substantially the same as claimed but does not expressly teach status indicators, provided in each of the navigation areas, provide information about whether or not a user has completed a work step.

Gundmudsson teaches status indicators, provided in the navigation areas, provide information about whether or not a user has completed a work step (pg. 7, lines 10-13 and pg. 11, lines 9-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of Van Weele to include status indicators, provided in the navigation areas, provide information about whether or not a user has completed a work step to provide a cohesive and adaptive project planning and design tool, that permits a non-specialized person to manage a project step-by-step, and keep an accurate project plan and project history (pg. 3, lines 24-27 and pg. 4, lines 1-2).

14. As per claim 31, Van Weele teaches as set forth above the status indicators further contain information about whether or not a data selection made in a work step has resulted in a non-permitted status (col. 7, lines 11-24).

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15. As per claim 32, Van Weele teaches a method for configuring or designing an installation, the method comprising:

providing a graphic user interface (col. 45, lines 59-67 and col. 46, lines 1-23) displayed on a display (col. 17, lines 59-67, col. 18, lines 1-2 and Fig. 3, element 26), the graphic user interface having at least two navigation areas (Fig. 3, element 36 and 38) and a data area (Fig. 3, element 40),

a first navigation area (Fig. 3, element 36) being an area in which sub-tasks and work steps associated with a project can be displayed in a hierarchically organized manner (col. 5, lines 58-67, col. 7, lines 58-67, col. 11, lines 41-52 and col. 34, lines 36-45), and

a second navigation area (Fig. 3, element 38) being an area in which individual work steps are displayed in their processing sequence (col. 2, lines 1-17, col. 5, lines 67, col. 6, lines 1-4 and col. 7, lines 34-37 and 43-44);

the user interface enabling: selection and performance of work steps (col. 11, lines 5-8 and 14-18) to configure or design the installation by navigating in the first navigation area (col. 11, line 67, col. 12, lines 1-8, col. 23, lines 21-26 and col. 34, lines 27-31); and

enabling a user to perform the work steps in part by:

(i) visually marking display elements associated with a selected work step in the first and in the second navigation area (col. 13, line 67 and col. 14, lines 1-4); and

Van Weele does not expressly teach individual work steps which a user performs through a graphical user interface, the data area being operable with the user interface to provide selectable options for performing one of the subtasks or work steps and (ii) selecting a data option associated with the selected work step in the data area in order to configure or design the installation.

Gundmudsson teaches individual work steps which a user performs through a graphical user interface (pg. 7, lines 10-13); and Gundmudsson by incorporation of Shah teaches a data area (Shah: Fig. 7, element 1022) being operable with the user interface (Shah: col. 11, lines 48-51 and Fig. 7) to provide selectable options (Fig. 7, element 1024) for performing one of the subtasks or work steps (Shah: col. 12, lines 12-16) and selecting a data option (Shah: Fig. 7, element 1024) associated with the selected work step in the data area (Shah: Fig. 7, element 1022) in order to configure or design the installation (Shah: col. 11, lines 64-67, col. 12, lines 1-16 and Fig. 7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of Van Weele to include individual work steps which a user performs through a graphical user interface to provide a cohesive and adaptive project planning and design tool, that permits a non-specialized person to manage a project step-by-step, and keep an accurate project plan and project history (Gundmudsson: pg. 3, lines 24-27 and pg. 4, lines 1-2); and a data

area being operable with the user interface to provide selectable options for performing one of the subtasks or work steps and selecting a data option associated with the selected work step in the data are in order to configure or design the installation to reduce design and implementation cost by providing efficient design tool (Shah: col. 2, lines 65-67).

16. As per claim 33, Van Weele teaches as set forth above a digital storage medium comprising a control program adapted for interacting with a computer, an operator unit, and a display for performing the method as set forth in claim 32 (col. 18, lines 34-40).

17. Claims 16-18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Weele in view of Gundmudsson and Shah in further view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0172371 (hereinafter Offenmuller).

18. As per claim 16, Van Weele in view of Gundmudsson and Shah do not expressly teach the first navigation area is an area with a tree structure.

Offenmuller teaches to a first navigation area is an area with a tree structure (pg. 5, par. [0062] and Fig. 3 and 5, element BB1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of Van Weele in view of Gundmudsson and Shah to include a first navigation area is an area with a tree structure to provide the advantage of operating and/or observing an industrial process and/or work cycles and/or an industrial automation system (pg. 2, par. [0017]) and to provide a split display apparatus to increase the usability and flexibility of the system for the user (pg. 2, par. [0021]).

19. As per claim 17, Van Weele teaches the first navigation area provides an overview of the project (col. 7, lines 41-50 and 58-67).

Van Weele in view of Gundmudsson and Shah do not expressly teach the first navigation area provides a tree structure (col. 7, lines 41-50 and 58-67).

Offenmuller teaches to a first navigation area is an area with a tree structure (pg. 5, par. [0062] and Fig. 3 and 5, element BB1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of Van Weele in view of Gundmudsson and Shah to include a first navigation area is an area with a tree structure to provide the advantage of operating and/or observing an industrial process

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and/or work cycles and/or an industrial automation system (pg. 2, par. [0017]) and to provide a split display apparatus to increase the usability and flexibility of the system for the user (pg. 2, par. [0021]).

20. As per claim 18, Van Weele teaches the first navigation area provides an overview of the project (col. 7, lines 41-50 and 58-67).

Van Weele in view of Gundmudsson and Shah do not expressly teach the first navigation area provides a tree structure.

Offenmuller teaches to a first navigation area is an area with a tree structure (pg. 5, par. [0062] and Fig. 3 and 5, element BB1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of Van Weele in view of Gundmudsson and Shah to include a first navigation area is an area with a tree structure to provide the advantage of operating and/or observing an industrial process and/or work cycles and/or an industrial automation system (pg. 2, par. [0017]) and to provide a split display apparatus to increase the usability and flexibility of the system for the user (pg. 2, par. [0021]).

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21. As per claim 20, Van Weele teaches as set forth above elements displayed in the first navigation area are displayed as an alphanumeric display (col. 23, lines 40-43).

22. As per claim 21, Van Weele teaches as set forth above elements displayed in the first navigation area are displayed as an alphanumeric display (col. 23, lines 40-43).

23. As per claim 23, Van Weele teaches as set forth above elements displayed in the second navigation area are each displayed in alphanumeric and graphic form (col. 7, lines 4-9).

24. As per claim 24, Van Weele teaches as set forth above elements displayed in the second navigation area are each displayed in alphanumeric and graphic form (col. 7, lines 4-9).

Response to Arguments

25. Applicant's arguments see Remarks pgs. 6-9, filed 13 July 2007 with respect to claims 15-33 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

26. Applicant argues that the prior art fails to teach, "configuring or designing". The examiner respectfully disagrees.

Van Weele teaches (col. 18, lines 15-19) "The secondary display 28 includes the Main Menu 44 including a display of selected commands which provide access to optional operator station windows, common elements, an on-line help window, a screen print function, and user-configurable set-up options."

(col. 20, lines 54-56) "While the information displayed within each of the windows may be changed by the systems or by the operator's command, in the preferred embodiment these windows are always present in a fixed size and location on the screen, and cannot be closed, iconized, or otherwise altered in size or location."

(col. 45, lines 59-66) "Thus, the operator station 20 of the present invention provides several ways for the operator to quickly and easily access, monitor, and/or change manufacturing process information. For example, the Main Menu Window 44 may be utilized to create additional flowsheet windows or additional trend windows on the secondary display 28, or to monitor or change process primitives directly through the Select command."

In summary, Van Weele teaches a user interface with the ability to configure or design a project through changing process parameters; hence, Van Weele is analogous to the Applicant's claimed invention.

27. Applicant argues that the prior art fails to teach, "the first navigation area is an area, in which sub-tasks and work steps associated with a project can be displayed in a hierarchically manner. The examiner respectfully disagrees.

Van Weele teaches (col. 5, lines 58-67) "The operator station of the present invention may also include a primary display including information relating to at least one SECTION of the manufacturing process. As used herein, a SECTION is a logical collection of process SEQUENCES, representing an area of responsibility that might be assigned to an individual using an operator station. A SECTION may, for example, contain one or more SEQUENCES monitored by a single dedicated process control computer, or it may include SEQUENCES from a plurality of process control computers."

(col. 7, lines 58-67) "Alternatively, a SECTION may be defined as a subset of SEQUENCES in the same manufacturing process. For example, a SECTION might include a selected SEQUENCE, the previous SEQUENCE, and the successive SEQUENCE in a manufacturing process, thereby allowing the operator to monitor and control a segment of a manufacturing process that is larger than a SEQUENCE. Again, the SEQUENCES in a SECTION, though parts of the same manufacturing process, may all be controlled by a single PCC, or by separate PCCs."

(col. 11, lines 41-52) "The SECTIONS Overview Window contains a SECTION Indicator for each of the SECTIONS to which the Operator has control (data write) access. Each SECTION Indicator contains a Critical Success Factor (CSF) indicator and additional graphic objects that tell the operator about the state of the SECTION. In addition to providing the operator with an overview of all SECTIONS for which he has responsibility, the SECTIONS Overview Window provides Flowsheet/SEQUENCE navigation--if the operator clicks on the SECTION name in a SECTION Indicator, the SEQUENCES Overview Window is updated to display all of the SEQUENCES associated with the SECTION. Clicking on the SEQUENCE Button also causes the SECTION Indicators for any SECTIONS related to any of the currently displayed SEQUENCES to be highlighted, thus indicating that the SEQUENCES Overview Window reflects the SEQUENCES of this SECTION."

(col. 34, lines 36-45) "Alternatively, flowsheets may be provided with a navigation marker 112 which may be clicked on to automatically display another preselected graphic sheet in the same flowsheet window. For example, when a SEQUENCE is represented by many SEQUENCE flowsheets with differing levels of detail, a **hierarchy** can be created by providing a navigation marker 112 in each of the SEQUENCE flowsheets and by associating a selected other flowsheet which is automatically displayed when the navigation marker is clicked on."

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28. As per claim 32, the Applicant argues that the prior art fails to teach, "user interface enabling: selection and performance of work steps to configure or design the installation by navigating in the first or in the second navigation area". The examiner respectfully disagrees.

Van Weele teaches (col. 11, lines 5-8) "A conventional data input device, such as a mouse or a track ball, is typically used to manipulate the windows on the operator station displays, as well as select items from menus."

(col. 11, lines 14-18) "As used herein, "click" or "clicking" means the operation of pressing and quickly releasing one of the mouse buttons. Items displayed in an operator station window are typically selected by positioning the mouse pointer on the item and "clicking on" that item.""

(col. 11, line 67 and col. 12, lines 1-8) "Clicking on the PCC Indicator displays a menu that allows the operator to set the source of data (where, for example, the PCC is a redundant system) and the data acquisition path (again, for example, where a redundant communication network is utilized). This menu also enables the operator to initiate the process which will change the value of any process variable in the PCC for which the PCC and the process control communications system permit change."

(col. 23, lines 21-26) "It allows navigation to a SEQUENCE, by clicking on the SECTION name 118, which causes the SEQUENCES Overview Graphic Sheet (FIG. 12) for that SECTION to be displayed in the SEQUENCES Overview Window 38;"

(col. 34, lines 27-31) "As previously described, selection of a particular SECTION in the SECTION Overview Window 36 automatically results in display of the associated Master SECTIONS Graphic Sheet in the Plant Overview Flowsheet Window 40. Selection of a particular SEQUENCE in the SEQUENCE Overview Window 38 likewise preferably automatically results in display of the associated Master SEQUENCES Graphic Sheet in the Plant Overview Flowsheet Window 40."

29. Applicant argues that the prior art fails to teach:

As per claim 15,

- "the data are through the user interface to select a data option associated with a selected subtask or work step in order to configure or design the installation"
- "software-based tool programmable for configuring or designing"
- paraphrased limitation "activities of configuring or designing through the user interface to select a data option associated with a selected subtask or work step..."

As per claim 32,

- "data area ... operable with the user interface to provide selectable options for performing one of the subtasks or work steps ..."
- "(ii) selecting a data option associated with the selected work step in the data area in order to configure or design the installation."
- "data area operable with the user interface to provide selectable options for performing one of the subtasks or work steps"
- "enabling a user to perform the work step in part by....
(ii) selecting a data option associated with the selected work step in the data area in order to configure or design the installation."

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner emphasizes that all anticipated components and limitations of pending claims are present in the prior art as set forth in the Office Action above. In addition, the Examiner notes the limitations recited above were newly presented in the Request for Continued Examination received on 13 July 2007 by the Office.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to graphical user interfaces.

U.S. Patent No. 7,209,800 discloses methods and apparatus for visualizing a control program of a machine tool.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer L. Norton whose telephone number is 571-272-3694. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 571-272-3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Knight', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2121